

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Following entry, claims 1-20 remain pending.

1. Amendment to the Specification

The Assignee has amended the specification in order to define the elements “internal stop” and “internal stop abutment,” as used in the claims. These elements, and their operation, were shown in Fig. 4 of the application, as filed. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully submits no new matter was added by this amendment.

2. Amendments to the Drawing

The Assignee amended Fig. 4 to added reference numerals matching the amendment the specification, discussed above. Fig. 4 was not substantively changed.

3. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleged the terms “internal stop,” “internal stop abutment element,” and/or “internal stops” as used in claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 19, are unclear.

The Assignee respectfully submits these elements were shown in Fig. 4 of the application, as filed, along with their function. The Assignee has amended the specification to provide element names and reference numbers consistent with the usage thereof in the claims. Finally, the Assignee respectfully submits no new matter was added to the application by this amendment, insofar as the internal stop, internal stop abutment, and operation thereof was depicted in Fig. 4, as filed.

Additionally, certain claims were amended to correct informalities in these claims not raised by the Examiner.

The Assignee respectfully submits the language set forth in the amendment to the specification clearly defines an internal stop and internal stop abutment. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully states the Examiner’s rejection is overcome, and requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims in question.

4. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,255,577 to Berry, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,997,047 to Pimentel et al. For at least the following reason, the Assignee respectfully disagrees.

Claims 1 and 19, the independent claims at issue, both require an internal stop. The internal stop, as shown in Fig. 4 and discussed in the specification as amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by either Berry or Pimentel. Further, the Examiner has set forth no rejection of the claim elements defining an internal stop.

Similarly, neither Pimentel nor Berry, alone or in combination, suggest or teach an internal stop abutment element, as required by both claims 1 and 19.

The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1 and 19. Accordingly, the dependent claims are also patentable. The Assignee makes this statement without reference to the independent bases of patentability contained within each dependent claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, the Assignee respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejections and allow the claims as patentable over Berry and Pimentel.

5. Conclusion

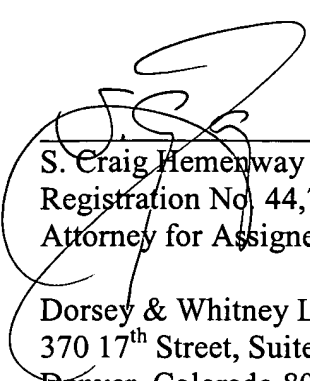
The Assignee thanks the Examiner for the thorough review of the application, and respectfully submits this paper places the application in condition for allowance.

This Amendment and Response is submitted contemporaneously with authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 for two months' extension of time and the corresponding petition. Should any additional petitions or fees be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (303) 629-3400.

Dated this 11th day of JANUARY, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Craig Hemenway
Registration No. 44,759
Attorney for Assignee

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
370 17th Street, Suite 4700
Denver, Colorado 80202

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Fig. 4 (sheet 3/10) with the newly-submitted Fig. 4 (sheet 3/10). Newly-submitted Fig. 4 adds reference numbers corresponding to the amendments made to the specification in this application.